# Influenza Vaccination Requirement

In order to protect the health and wellness of all community members – and the public at large – during the current COVID-19 health crisis, Pepperdine University is instituting a new influenza (flu) vaccination requirement. This requirement is effective through the 2020-2021 flu season to reduce the likelihood of severe illness among community members, particularly those on campus, and help prevent an overwhelmed health care system.

The University's Immunization Requirement is hereby amended to add the influenza vaccine to the list of required vaccinations for the 2020-2021 academic year. **All students living, learning, working, or utilizing facilities at any University campus must receive a flu vaccine no later than October 31, 2020.**

Current residential students who received a housing exception and are living on campus must adhere to the **October 31, 2020 deadline**. Off-campus students may postpone completing the influenza vaccination requirement until they plan to access a University campus once permitted by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. However, timely receipt of the flu vaccine is still recommended for their health and safety and the wellness of their family and community members.

**Free flu vaccinations are available to all enrolled students** and will be offered in mid-to-late September. Students may call the Student Health Center at 310.506.4316, option 3, to schedule an appointment. **Students who opt to receive their flu vaccination at an off-campus medical office or clinic need to document the vaccination by uploading the official record in English into their Patient Portal.**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu vaccination has long been accepted as a safe and effective way to reduce the chance of getting flu and spreading it to others. During 2017-2018, flu vaccination prevented an estimated 6.2 million influenza illnesses, 3.2 million influenza-associated medical visits, 91,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations, and 5,700 influenza-associated deaths. Additionally, several studies have shown the flu vaccine can help reduce the severity of illness in people who get vaccinated but still get sick.

Getting a flu vaccine this year is more important than ever. While flu vaccines will not prevent COVID-19, they will reduce the burden of flu illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. This will help conserve the scarce medical resources available for the care of people with COVID-19. It will also help your doctor care for you should you become ill with COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the best source for information on this year's flu vaccine. Take care of yourself, your friends, your family, and your community by getting your flu vaccine.